

Rural District of Bridgwater



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1963



R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   O F   B R I D G W A T E R

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1963

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Vice-Chairman:

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MR. B.L. SMITH

DR. W.R. THROWER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1963

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.


Chief Public Health Inspector

F.A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. EMM, M.A.P.H.I.

E.F. HITCHCOCK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1963

Health Department,  
Albert Street,  
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

July, 1964.

To:

The Chairman and Members of the  
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the Health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1963. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can be made easily.

The health of the Rural District has been good during the year and apart from measles there has been almost a complete absence of notifiable infectious diseases. 1963 was a "measles" year and altogether 372 cases were notified. Modern treatment has done much to lessen the severity of the complications of this troublesome disease.

Generally the vital statistics continue to be satisfactory and to compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

The big "freeze up" presented the major health problem of the year. Freezing of water service pipes resulted in many problems and it was necessary for water to be distributed to householders by tanker. Old people especially had difficulty in keeping warm, and the work of voluntary services in distributing extra bed clothes, and of "good neighbours" in helping generally their less fortunate brethren did much to alleviate hardship. Despite the terrible conditions to which people were subjected, there was no major outbreak at the time. This was probably due to the fact that temperatures were uniformly low throughout the whole period of the freeze up and there were none of the sudden temperature fluctuations which so often result in outbreaks of respiratory diseases.

On 1st April 1963, the West Somerset Water Board came into being and assumed responsibility for the water supply of the Rural District. Probably due to the inclement weather during the summer months no shortage of water was experienced during the year and no restrictions were placed on the domestic supply.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, the other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R.H. WATSON.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area ( acres )	86,000
Population ( census 1961 )	21,985
Population ( Registrar General's estimate ) 1963	23,040
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1963	7,100
Rateable value on 31st December, 1963	£507,650
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1963	£ 2,078.16.10

### Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1963

#### Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	226	218	444
Illegitimate	14	5	19
	<hr/> 240	<hr/> 223	<hr/> 463

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	20.10
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.10
Stillbirths	3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	6.46
Total live and still births	466
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)	4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total	8.64
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	9.01
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.64
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	8.64
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	15.02
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil

#### Deaths

Total number of deaths	295
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.80

## Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 463 births (240 boys and 223 girls) in the Rural District during 1963, being 66 births more than in 1962. Of these births 19 were illegitimate. This is 4.1% of the total live births, as compared with 5.4% in 1962.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 20.10 to 21.10 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.2.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Crude Birth Rate	17.21	18.59	18.54	17.64	20.10
Standardised Birth Rate	18.09	20.08	20.02	18.16	21.10
England and Wales	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2

## Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1963 was 171. Of these 9 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 133 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District. (66 at Taunton hospitals and 67 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 295 (144 males and 151 females). This was 56 more than in the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 12.80 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 12.67 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 12.2 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Crude Death Rate	11.12	11.53	11.66	10.62	12.80
Standardised Death Rate	10.23	10.61	10.72	10.41	12.67
England and Wales	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9	12.2

Of 290 deaths, 180 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 65 occurred in people in the productive age groups 20 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group.

	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus			1	1	1	3
Malignant neoplasm of breast			1			1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		2	2	1	4	9
Vascular lesions of the nervous system			1	3		4
Coronary disease and angina				5	5	10
Other heart disease				7	5	12
Other circulatory disease				2		2
Pneumonia				1	3	4
Bronchitis				2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system				3		3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1		1	2	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents		2			1	3
All other accidents	1		2			3
Suicide		1			1	2
Homicide and operations of war	1					1
	3	5	8	27	22	65



### Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths of Rural District residents from cancer was 54 (males 30, females 24), as compared with 49 in 1962. They constitute 18.3% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 54 cases.

	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1963
Stomach	2	4	6	10
Lung, bronchus	9	-	9	9
Breast	-	5	5	9
Uterus	-	-	-	1
Other and unspecified organs	19	15	34	20
Total	30	24	54	49

### Cancer of the Lungs

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1960					2	3	5	10
1961					2	3	6	11
1962				1	3	4	1	9
1963					1	3	5	9
Total				1	8	13	17	39

The publication of the American report confirming the relationship between heavy smoking and lung cancer made quite an impression on many people and numbers who did not give up smoking altogether changed to pipe or cigar smoking. Nevertheless, it is to the young people that efforts to discourage or stop smoking are best directed and the County Council, as Local Education Authority, have taken steps to bring home to students in school the dangers involved in cigarette smoking. On the other hand it is difficult for teenagers to give particular heed to something which may affect them from middle age onwards.

### Infantile Mortality

4 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 8.64 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 20.9.

The following table shows the cause of the infant deaths in detail:-

	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1				1
Primary atelectasis	2				2
Meningomyelocele	1				1
Total	4				4

### Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 295 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 48, females 56). It represented 35% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 4.5 per 1,000 of the population.

### Other Deaths

12 deaths were due to accidents, of which 4 were road accidents.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	144	151	295
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system			
2. Other forms of tuberculosis			
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria			
5. Whooping cough			
6. Meningococcal infections			
7. Acute poliomyelitis			
8. Measles			
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases			
0. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	4	6
1. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	9	-	9
2. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	5	5
3. Malignant neoplasm of uterus			
4. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	15	34
5. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
6. Diabetes	2	1	3
7. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16	28	44
8. Coronary disease and angina	32	18	50
9. Hypertension with heart disease	-	5	5
0. Other heart disease	16	33	49
1. Other circulatory disease	13	12	25
2. Influenza	-	2	2
3. Pneumonia	3	1	4
4. Bronchitis	8	1	9
5. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	3	5
6. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
7. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
8. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
9. Hyperplasia of prostate			
0. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			
1. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
2. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	9	20
3. Motor vehicle accidents	5	3	8
4. All other accidents	2	2	4
5. Suicide	-	2	2
6. Homicide and operations of war	-	1	1

## Population

The estimated population of the Rural District as at June 1963 was 23,040, which shows an increase of 540 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 168, and therefore there was an increase in population of 372 due to immigration.

It is interesting to note the population changes which have taken place in recent years and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years.

Year	Population increase	Natural increase	Change due to migration
1951	610	82	- 692
1952	840	119	+ 721
1953	160	46	+ 114
1954	80	129	- 209
1955	400	120	+ 280
1956	610	83	- 693
1957	190	134	- 324
1958	230	112	+ 118
1959	200	138	+ 142
1960	1,450	151	+ 1,299
1961	550	153	+ 392
1962	540	168	+ 372

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1963. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases notified	
	1963	1962
Scarlet fever	16	7
Whooping cough	6	15
Measles	372	62
Dysentery	3	-
Pneumonia	8	14
Puerperal pyrexia	3	2
Gastro enteritis	-	-
Total	408	105

## Measles

372 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease.

## Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

### (a) Cases

No cases were notified

### (b) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections of Salk vaccine, three injections of quadruple vaccine or three doses of Oral vaccine), and the number of persons who received reinforcements during 1963.

Children born 1963		Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 years of age & Priority Groups	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
2	28	10	140	6	94	1	15	2	28

Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a third Salk injection or fourth injection of quadruple vaccine	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a fourth Salk injection or fifth injection of quadruple vaccine	Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a re-inforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk injections	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk injections or 3 Oral doses or 2 Salk injs. plus 2 Oral doses
33	3	36	121

## Tuberculosis

4 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory new case of tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory case in 1962.

### Respiratory      Non-respiratory

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.63

67

9

Number of new cases during the year

4

1

Number of deaths during the year

-

-

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All new cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year.

Age:-	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65 & over	Age unknown	Total
Male	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4
Female	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

### B.C.G. Vaccination

In order to raise the immunity to tuberculosis of school leavers, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 489 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 344 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

### Food Poisoning

No cases were notified.

### Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 229 children under the age of 5 years and 26 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 255.

### Tetanus Immunisation

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December 1963, was as follows:-

Children born in the years:-							
1963	62	61	60	59	54-58	49-53	TOTAL
47	141	35	4	-	27	-	254

### Vaccination against Smallpox

The number of recorded vaccinations was as follows:-

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 15		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
57	-	6	-	3	1	5	3	10	24	81	28

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

### GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

#### Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included:-

Water samples	54
Ice cream samples.	36
Foods	26

#### Hospitals

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

During the year the Council were informed by the Board that a Project Committee had been set up to plan the development of Bridgwater General Hospital to provide for a new maternity unit and to improve outpatient and casualty departments. It was intended that implementation of this project would commence in 1966.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

### Ante-Natal Clinics

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood grouping, Rhesus Factor, etc. During 1963, 923 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 829.

### Infant Welfare

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoylla and Woolavington.

### National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

### Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 135 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of case :-

Maternity	13
Old age and infirmity	80
Chronic sick	20
Post operation	7
Emergency illness	6
Other cases	9

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.63 was as follows:-

Full time	5
Part time	13

### Welfare of Old People

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service wherever there is need.



### Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Sewerage

Re-sewering of the village of Cannington was completed during the year. By elimination of large quantities of storm water from the sewers this scheme will enable the existing sewage disposal system to function efficiently.

Preliminary work on the other sewerage schemes in the Council's phased programme for the provision of satisfactory sewage disposal systems in certain other parishes where the need is greatest has proceeded satisfactorily. Very satisfactory progress was made on the Chilton Polden scheme and the next scheme in priority, i.e. East Huntspill and Woolavington is due to commence in the very near future.

#### Water Supplies

Sampling of water supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures, apart from increasing chlorination, were necessary. An exception was the Goathurst private supply. 13 out of 16 samples of this water submitted for bacteriological examination gave unsatisfactory results and showed varying degrees of contamination. Some samples were grossly polluted. It has been demonstrated clearly that this supply is easily contaminated and it needs only a case or carrier of enteric fever to pollute the gathering grounds to trigger off an explosive outbreak of the disease amongst the consumers. It is therefore essential that the supply be closed if it cannot adequately be protected from pollution. In the meantime the consumers have been advised to boil all water used for human consumption.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of examinations	Report	
		satisfactory	not satisfactory
Fiddington	12	9	3
Goathurst	16	3	13
Willoughby	13	10	3
Over Stowey	12	11	1

Chemical analysis of Fiddington, Willoughby and Over Stowey supplies was continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 11.6.63

Labelled: Fiddington Public Supply from tap.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units less than 5
Reaction	Neutral
pH	7.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	8.0
Total Solids	370.0
Total Alkalinity (as $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	255.0
Carbonate Hardness	255.0
Non-carbonate Hardness	45.0
Total Hardness	300.0
Chloride (as Cl)	21.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	Nil
Nitrate	4.0
Nitrite	Nil
Albuminoid	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs. at $27^\circ\text{C}$	0.10
Sediment	None
Iron - Copper - Lead - Zinc	Nil

This is a hard water, the hardness being very largely temporary, of satisfactory chemical purity.

Report on Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 11.6.63

Labelled: Willoughby Public Supply from tap.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright Hazen Units less than 5
Reaction	Very slightly Alkaline
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.5
Total Solids	195.0
Total Alkalinity (as $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	120.0
Carbonate Hardness	120.0
Non-carbonate Hardness	40.0
Total Hardness	160.0
Chloride (as Cl)	22.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid	0.004
Nitrate	1.6
Nitrite	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs. at $27^\circ\text{C}$	Nil
Sediment	None
Iron - Copper - Lead - Zinc	Nil

This is a moderately hard water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 11.6.63

Labelled: Over Stowey Public Supply from standpipe.

	Parts per million
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units less than 5
Reaction	Very slightly Alkaline
pH	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Total Solids	70.0
Total Alkalinity (as $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	40.0
Carbonate Hardness	
Non-carbonate Hardness	
Total Hardness	45.0
Chloride (as Cl)	19.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid	0.014
Nitrate	Trace
Nitrite	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.25
Sediment	None
Iron - Copper - Lead - Zinc	Nil

This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Housing

During 1963 the Local Authority erected 50 houses, compared with 11 in 1962. Private enterprise built 183 houses in 1963, compared with 191 in 1962. At the end of the year there were approximately 450 applications for Council houses, compared with 350 at the end of the previous year.

At the time of writing this report, work on the task of complete redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate is proceeding satisfactorily. A good start has been made and the period for completion of this scheme has been reduced from five to two and a half year. This is particularly welcomed as the condition of many of the existing houses is causing concern.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1963 was as follows:-

(a) Erected by the Local Authority	853
(b) Erected by Private Enterprise	1,676

### Improvement Grants

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards. The following table summarises the action taken:-

Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
27	35	27	22

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-fourth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1963.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk-typist. All the Public Health Inspectors hold the Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate in addition to the statutory qualification.

The only staff change during the year was by reason of the resignation of Mr. B. B. Reed, clerk-typist, in July after twenty one years service with the Council.

Mrs. J. M. Sperring was appointed to succeed Mrs. Reed and commenced duties in August.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 116, a decrease of 8 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 9 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 98 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 309.

The new system of sewers for the village of Cannington was completed during the year. The old combined sewers were in very bad condition and treatment for the destruction of rodents had to be carried out at frequent intervals.

The construction of new sewers and sewage disposal works for Chilton Polden will make possible the abatement of serious nuisances which now exist in the village. There are at present, a number of ditches which receive drainage effluent from inadequate septic tanks and cesspools and conditions are such that complaints of smell are inevitable.

It is hoped that an early start will be made on a joint sewerage scheme for the parishes of Cossington, Woolavington and East Huntspill where similar insanitary conditions exist.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the four sources of supply serving most of the District and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

A total of 68 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

## HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 1087, the number of separate houses inspected being 518.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal repair notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

There appears to be a serious shortage of building labour in the District, and usually it is only possible to get repairs executed after considerable delay. This situation was made even more serious by reason of the exceptionally severe weather during the first three months of the year when frost damage to buildings was extensive. It was only towards the end of the year that the backlog of work from this cause was overcome.

A considerable number of applications for Improvement Grants were dealt with during the year and schedules of disrepair were supplied where appropriate to ensure that the property was brought up to a reasonable state of repair as a condition of grant.

The right to increase rents by 12½% per annum on improvements should encourage owners and agents to carry out repairs and improvements, but many are still unwilling to do so. On the other hand, it is evident that some tenants with low incomes - especially the aged - prefer to continue to live in unfit houses with low rents rather than to agree to improvements which would result in a considerable increase in those rents.

During the year 155 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

14 houses were represented as unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 6 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 3 cases, the Council agreed to accept undertakings to carry out approved works within a stipulated time, and in another case an undertaking to use as a store was accepted. 18 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

11 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses into Council houses.

90 visits were made during the year to 32 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

## HOUSING (continued)

13 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants were made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

77 visits were made in connection with applications for Improvement Grants, and 170 inspections of property were made to ascertain if conditions of grant were being fulfilled. In a number of cases it was found that dwellings were not being maintained to the standard required by the Act and in these cases the attention of owners was drawn to their obligations and they were requested to carry out such work as was considered to be necessary.

## OVERCROWDING.

No new cases of overcrowding were discovered in dwelling houses during the year, but three cases in caravans were dealt with, two cases being abated by informal action.

6 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937:-

	Number on Register	Insp	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	3	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	70	87	2	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	2		
TOTAL	74	92	2	

The 92 visits were made in respect to 72 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	8			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	6	8			



## BAKEHOUSES.

19 visits were made to the 10 bakehouses in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found informal notices served were fully complied with.

One bakehouse closed during the year.

## SHOPS.

292 inspections of shops were carried out in respect of the 246 premises in the District.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

The following improvements were carried out, generally as a result of informal action:-

W.Cs.	8
Baths	5
Sinks	8
Drainage systems	5
Lavatory basins	13
Connections to sewer	1
Urinal	1
Flushing cisterns	2

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

## FOOD HYGIENE.

A great deal of time has again been spent on implementing the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, 423 inspections having been made of the 298 premises in the District to which the Regulations apply. In all but a few premises the standard of hygiene maintained is very good, but in these few cases frequent and regular visits are necessary in order to impress on persons responsible and their employees the need for constant care and vigilance in the hygienic preparation and handling of food.

Where contraventions of the Regulations were found informal action was taken which resulted in 60 deficiencies being remedied. In addition, the following improvements in facilities and equipment were installed:-

Refrigerators	1
Refrigerated Display Counters	1
Washbasins	4
Water Heaters	4
Sinks	3
Sterilising Sinks	3
Other equipment	2
Floors and walls tiled	5
Premises modernised	5

## FOOD HYGIENE (continued)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

Ice Cream Factory	1
Licensed houses and Clubs	71
Bakehouses	10
Butchers	12
Slaughterhouses	5
Poultry and Rabbit Packers	2
Dairies	11
Cafes	20
School Kitchens	38
Food Preparing premises	37
Food Shops	90
Fish and Chip Shop	1
	<hr/>
	298

### LICENSED PREMISES.

105 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action.

Two licensed houses were closed during the year.

### MEAT AND FOODS

The Company using the Puriton Slaughterhouse ceased to operate at the end of July, and from that time wholesale killing at the premises stopped. The slaughterhouse was used for killing for retail sale during August but from the end of that month all slaughtering at the premises ceased.

Two of the slaughterhouses operate a considerable wholesale trade, and the remaining slaughterhouse is used for the slaughter of animals for a number of butchers in the neighbourhood. Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets but a considerable quantity is also sent to Bristol and Bath, whilst a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered decreased by almost 25% of the previous years total. This was chiefly by reason of the temporary closure of the Puriton Slaughterhouse but there was also a considerable shortage of animals for slaughter. It is understood that this shortage resulted in higher prices having to be paid for animals with a consequent reduction in profits to the slaughterhouse proprietors.

## MEAT AND FOODS(continued)

The coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 resulted in an increase in the time which has to be devoted to meat inspection and the marking of carcasses with an official stamp after inspection. From 1st October to the end of the year 100% inspection was achieved, but it is anticipated that when the Puriton Slaughterhouse is brought back into use difficulties will again arise if the number of animals slaughtered is high.

1,010 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat, and 27,149 carcasses were inspected, a decrease of 9,356 on the previous year, and giving an average of 27 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

Beasts	2,736
Cows	195
Calves	8,791
Sheep	11,922
Pigs	3,505

Approximately 6 tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

### Beasts.

Carcasses and organs	1
Heads and tongues	17
Livers	101
Lungs	58
Hearts	7
Spleens	8
Diaphragms	9
Kidneys	2
Beef	209 lbs.

### Cows.

Carcasses and organs	12
Heads and tongues	2
Livers	51
Lungs	10
Kidneys	2
Spleens	1
Hearts	2
Diaphragms	1
Beef	883 lbs.

## MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

### Calves.

Carcases and organs	36
Heads and tongues	1
Livers	9
Kidneys	27
Plucks	1
Veal	36 lbs.

### Sheep.

Carcases and organs	34
Livers	172
Lungs	13
Plucks	23
Diaphragms	5
Mutton	221 lbs.

### Pigs.

Carcases and organs	22
Heads and tongues	26
Livers	52
Kidneys	5
Lungs	45
Plucks	45
Hearts	16
Diaphragms	4
Pork	148 lbs.

### Other Foods.

117 Tins - Various foods  
19 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Bacon

# MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
r inspected	2,736	195	8,791	11,922	3,505	-
diseases except culosis - whole ses condemned	1	12	36	34	22	-
ses of which some part gan was condemned	162	73	43	223	166	-
the number inspected ted with disease other Tuberculosis and cerci	5.96	43.59	.90	2.16	5.37	-
<u>culosis only</u> - carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
ses of which some part gan was condemned	-	-	-	-	24	-
the number inspected ted with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.69	-
cercosis. ses of which some part gan was condemned	5	-	-	-	-	-
ses submitted to treatment frigeration	5	-	-	-	-	-
alised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers  
imal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and  
lised by steam under pressure.





